

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 1878

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the Opening Speech which had been delivered by His Excellency.

The Speaker and honourable members accordingly proceeded to Government House.

GOVERNOR'S ANSWER TO ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The SPEAKER, on returning, announced that the Assembly had been to Government House, and there presented to the Governor their Reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech, to which His Excellency was pleased to make the following answer:—

"Mr. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN,

"It is with unfeigned gratification I receive, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, your renewed assurance of loyalty and affection towards Her Majesty's person and Government.

"I confidently rely upon your judgment in dealing with the important questions submitted for your consideration.

"A. E. KENNEDY.

"Government House,

"Brisbane, 30th April, 1878."

QUESTIONS.

Mr. THOMPSON asked the Secretary for Public Works—

What is the rate charged for carrying road metal on the railway line between Bandanba and Brisbane, and is any special arrangement on the subject made with the Brisbane Corporation, and if so, what is that arrangement?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS (Mr. Miles) replied—

The rate charged for conveying road metal between Bandanba and Brisbane is 1s. 6d. per ton, and 20s. per train. An arrangement has been made with the Brisbane Corporation to run special trains to and from Bandanba and Brisbane three times a-week.

Mr. THOMPSON said, to save the necessity for another question, he would point out that it was not quite clear from the answer just given whether the 1s. 6d. per ton was charged as well as the 20s. per train.

The MINISTER FOR WORKS: Yes, it is.

Mr. IVORY asked the Minister for Public Works, without notice, whether he was yet in possession of advice with regard to the question which he (Mr. Ivory) asked on the 25th of April, namely:—

"Are the sub-contractors on the Maryborough Railway cutting timber on reserves and Crown lands without paying the usual license fees? By what authority have the contractors issued a number of licenses, and how many? What check has the Government upon this system of private licenses?"

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied:—

The Government have given no permission to contractors to issue licenses to cut timber, and the only information in their possession is the following copy of a telegram received from the Land

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 30 April, 1878.

Presentation of Address in Reply.—Governor's Answer to Address in Reply.—Questions.—Formal Motion.—Electoral Districts Bill.—University Scholarships.—Local Government.—Health Act Amendment Bill.—Adjournment.

The SPEAKER took the chair at fifteen minutes past three o'clock.

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The SPEAKER invited the Assembly to proceed to Government House to present to the Governor the Address in Reply to

Commissioner, viz. :—"Yes; I instructed the ranger to give up seizure of timber cut for railway purposes, and have further instructed him not to interfere with persons cutting timber on Crown lands without licenses, if satisfied that the persons are authorised by the contractors. The contractors, Annear and Co., I take to be persons authorised by the Commissioner for Railways in virtue of their contract under section No. 11 of the Railways Act of 1863, 27 Victoria, No. 8." Authority was asked by the contractors from the Commissioner for Railways, who declined to give any authority.

MR. McILWRAITH (in the absence of Mr. Palmer) asked the Colonial Secretary—

1. Whether it is true that the Government have entered into an arrangement with Bishop Bugnion for the importation of a cargo of Memnonites, the Government defraying half the expenses, or on any other terms?

2. If so, will the Colonial Secretary lay the agreement on the table of the House?

The PREMIER (Mr. Douglas) replied :—

The Government have not entered into any agreement with Bishop Bugnion for the importation of what is called a cargo of Memnonites.

Some correspondence has taken place, which can be placed on the table of the House, if desired by the honourable member.

MR. McILWRAITH asked the Premier—

Whether it is the intention of the Government to propose this session any legislation to carry out the recommendations of the Forest Conservancy Committee of 1875?

The PREMIER replied—

The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. MOREHEAD asked the Secretary for Public Works—

What members, if any, of the Royal Commission, appointed to inquire into the best means for extending the Southern and Western Railway to deep water, were paid?

The MINISTER FOR WORKS replied—

The members of the Royal Commission, appointed to inquire into the best means for extending the Southern and Western Railway to deep water, received no payment.

FORMAL MOTION.

The following motion was agreed to :—

By Mr. STEVENSON—

That there be laid on the table of this House, a Return showing the number of South Sea Islanders who have been employed annually in each district of the colony during the last five years, and the number of deaths which have occurred annually in each district during that period.

ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BILL.

The PREMIER: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for additional and better representation of the people of Queensland in Parliament, and in doing so, though it is not usual to speak on such a motion as this,

I think it may be convenient that I should make some explanation as to the general principles of the Bill which I propose to introduce. There is some little doubt whether it is desirable that I should speak on this motion or upon the motion for the first reading of the Bill, and I believe that whatever explanation is made is usually made on the motion for reading the Bill a first time. However, I am quite willing to take it upon this motion, and I believe it is not intended that on this motion any debate should arise. My object is simply to explain some of the leading features of the Bill, in order that it may be understood better by honourable gentlemen. This was the course which was followed on a previous occasion by the honourable member for Port Curtis, when he moved the Electoral Districts Bill of 1872. Honourable gentlemen will remember that during last session reference was made to this electoral redistribution question, on the motion of the honourable member for Kennedy, Mr. Macrossan, who moved for a division of his electorate in order to secure an additional representative for the district he represented. A debate arose on that question, and it became my duty to oppose the motion, chiefly on the ground that, though he had made out a good case for his special electorate, an equally good case might be made out for other electorates; and indeed that the whole question of the representation of the people was one which demanded treatment on the part of the Government; that it was one which could not be dealt with by a private member, and if dealt with at all, it must be handled by the Government. That motion was not carried, a considerable majority being of opinion that the whole question should be undertaken by the Government, and from that point of view, the honourable member for Toowoomba took decided action, and moved, if I am not mistaken, an amendment on the honourable gentleman's motion. The subject was further dealt with by the honourable member for Cook, who also brought in a Bill; but it was held that that measure could not be introduced, as a similar one, dealing with the subject, had been brought forward by the honourable member for Kennedy. Under these circumstances, and the Government having last session given a pledge that they would give the whole question their very earnest attention, it now becomes my duty to bring under the notice of the House a Bill for dealing with the representation of the people of Queensland in Parliament. I may mention, that since the subject of electoral representation has been dealt with, as it was by the honourable member for Port Curtis in 1872, an Act was passed in 1874, which dealt with many matters connected with representation. I think the disputed points on that subject

are tolerably well set at rest at the present time. There is no desire on the part of the Government, and I think there is no desire on the part of the community at large, or their representatives, to raise a constitutional question other than that of a redistribution of the electorates, and therefore the Bill which I hold in my hand confines itself to that branch of the question. I shall now direct honourable members' attention first to the principle on which the Bill is founded, and the representation basis which we propose to adopt. First, as regards the principles on which it is founded; and in regard to that I would refer honourable members to a return which I have had prepared of the estimated population in the existing electoral districts of Queensland, and of the estimated population in the proposed new electoral districts under the Electoral Districts Bill of 1878. That return contains tables, to which I wish particularly to direct the attention of honourable members, and which have been prepared with great care and with a considerable amount of trouble by the Registrar-General, who has, of course, taken as the basis of his returns the census of 1875. Proceeding on them, honourable members are informed that the

"Return is calculated upon the figures shown by the last Census Enumeration and the subsequent increase from excess of births over deaths and excess of arrivals over departures by sea. It is impossible to arrive at the exact population in the interval between two census enumerations, because it cannot be ascertained how many may arrive in the colony, or leave, overland; and in the same way there is no possibility of estimating the interchange between the several districts by land. Persons arriving by sea are supposed soon to be distributed through the country. In the district of Cook almost all the increase from excess of arrivals over departures is no doubt retained within that district. In compiling this Return the increase from excess of births over deaths, and from excess of arrivals over departures by sea, has been ascertained, first for the district of Cook, secondly for the remainder of the Northern Territorial Division, thirdly for the Central, and fourthly for the Southern Division of the Colony, including Wide Bay and Burnett, and is then distributed within these four Divisions in the proportion of the population of the several Electoral and Census Districts as found at the census."

Now, I may state at once that we have not, in arriving at a decision in connection with this Bill, adopted the principle of representation of population pure and simple, or of that of adult population alone. As honourable members will perceive, the tables which have been handed to them comprise, first, a return of the estimated population in each electoral district of Queensland on the 31st December, 1877; and, secondly, a return of the estimated population in each of the proposed new

electoral districts. In the second column of the first table we have the total population; in the third column, the total adult population; and in the fourth column, the adult male population, exclusive of Chinese, Polynesians, prisoners, lunatics, inmates of benevolent asylums, and foreign shipping. Then, on the other side of the page, if honourable members will follow me, they will find the same method adopted, with this difference, that in the fifth column, we have taken the population, calculated in accordance with the 7th section of the "Electoral Districts Bill of 1878," being the mean of the second and fourth column. That is to say, that we take the mean of the second and fourth columns, and adopt it as a basis on which we propose to redistribute the electorates. I have no hesitation in saying, that if society was constituted here in the same fixed manner as it is in older countries, if the country was populated—as I suppose it will some day be—the men, women, and children in it would be the proper basis of representation. It is on that basis alone that representation is founded in most European countries. That has been the basis adopted in our colonies; but whilst admitting that to be the true basis of representation as recognised in the United States and elsewhere, we must bear in mind that the greater part of our territory is occupied more by a male than a mixed population. We could not overlook this fact, and we have made allowance for this, and have come to the conclusion that in a new country such as this it would scarcely be fair to refuse to make allowance for existing facts. We have endeavoured to strike a mean, and have thus striven to arrive at what we hope will be considered a satisfactory basis. I think, sir, that our object should be to arrive at some practical result in dealing with this very important question; and I can assure honourable members that the Government are most anxious to secure the best means for ensuring the proper representation of the people. If honourable members will devote their attention to this matter from this point of view, they will find every facility given to them on the part of the Government. Having thus shortly referred to the basis of this proposed representative system, I wish to say a few words on the much disputed question of single and double electorates. As honourable members will remember, when the Single Electorate Bill was passed, it was made a strong point by the honourable member for Port Curtis that the principle of single electorates should be recognised. Previous to that, some of the constituencies were represented by two or three members. Many thought the new method was a most radical change, inasmuch as it was asserting a principle which had never been attempted

in any other colony. It was, however, very strongly supported, and although resisted very forcibly by the chief exponent of the Opposition at that time, the then honourable member for Fortitude Valley, it became law. The only member on the Government side of the House who opposed it was Mr. Johnson, one of the members for Ipswich, who imagined that such a system would materially interfere with the interests of that district, and would tend to localise legislation. It was also opposed by another party, who took as their standpoint not as much the question of single electorates, as the effect such a measure was likely to have in the election of a large number of the supporters of the promoters of the Bill; their ground of opposition was, that it would give great support to the Ministry of the day. The reverse, however, was the result; and I may say that I was rather amused at the time by the remarks of a gentleman who was then a member of this House, but who is now in another place, that although the Bill was introduced to keep out the Liberal party, yet that Providence would overrule their designs, and confound their knavish tricks. It seems to me that the prophecies of that gentleman, Dr. O'Doherty, have been verified, and that the passing of that Bill had the effect of bringing into power, the party at that time in Opposition. On that ground, perhaps, I should have some hesitation in proposing any alteration of the system, but the measure I now propose I wish to be considered by all parties in the way in which it will best benefit the people themselves. It will be seen by honourable members that we have somewhat departed from the principle of single electorates, and our motive in so doing is one which I think will recommend itself to honourable members. With regard to the Bill which I am now introducing to the notice of honourable members, I may mention that it proposes to divide the colony into twenty-five single and fifteen double electorates. The majority of the double electorates are towns, but there are several double country electorates such as Condamine, Wide Bay, Leichhardt, Kennedy, and Cook. I also am decidedly of opinion, that minorities will always have the power of making themselves heard, and I should be sorry that any Bill I introduced should have the effect of authorising a system of government by minorities. I wish it, therefore, to be understood that in adopting the system of double electorates I have no desire whatever to give effect to that principle; it is one I do not consider at all desirable. I shall now, Mr. Speaker, say a few words by way of explanation in regard to the new electoral districts which are proposed by this Bill, and I will for the sake of clearness take the districts as they appear in the

Bill before you. In reference to this matter, I may mention for the information of honourable members, that maps have been carefully prepared showing the boundaries of the various districts, so that during the ensuing week they will have an opportunity of seeing them, and I may add that if any honourable member desires to have a copy of the map of his own district, I shall be most happy to have it supplied to him; my only reason for not having done so was the great amount of work it would cause to the department. The new electorate of Brisbane includes the old electorates of North Brisbane and Wickham, the boundaries being exactly the same—the only difference being that it is a double electorate, instead of two single electorates. In South Brisbane there will be the old boundaries and two members. Going from there to Fortitude Valley, it is proposed that it shall be represented by two members; and here I may mention some slight alteration which has been made in the district. It is proposed that in addition to the old boundaries it shall include New Farm up to Bulimba Road. Then, with regard to Enoggera, which is the northern suburb of the city, this electorate has been considerably enlarged, as it is proposed to include, besides the north suburbs of the city, Kedron Brook, the German Station, Nudgee, Eagle Farm, and to go as far as Cabbage-tree Creek, which is its northern boundary. This electorate, which is now a very compact one, is partly rural. Then we propose to create an electorate to be called Moreton, which shall include the North and South Pine Rivers and the Caboolture River, Cabbage-tree Creek being the southern boundary. Going south, we propose that Oxley shall be represented by one member, and that its boundaries shall remain the same except that its southern boundary is to be the old Ipswich road; and what is taken away from the district of Oxley is given to Bulimba, this being rendered necessary and convenient in consequence of the lesser population of the Bulimba electorate. Going then to the district of the Logan, which is a somewhat populous one, it has been found convenient—and there are also good geographical reasons for the alteration—to take away the upper portion of the Albert, so that the range between the Albert River and the Coomera watershed is made the boundary. In that respect the electorate has been territorially lessened, and what has been taken away from it is given to Fassifern, which falls far short of the required amount. Proceeding westward, the town of Ipswich is left exactly as it was, the population bearing out the proportion. Bremer and Bandanba, it is believed, may conveniently be bunched, the alteration being justified by the population of those two dis-

tricts. The old Bandanba electorate had a somewhat circuitous boundary, and on the whole it is believed convenient that the people of those two electorates should be represented by two members, instead of separately as at present. West of Ipswich, we have formed out of the old electorate of West Morton a new electorate, which we have named Rosewood, the population in that vicinity justifying the nomenclature. A portion of the country lying to the north of the present Bremer electorate, along both sides of the Brisbane River, has been taken from the old West Moreton electorate, which we propose now to call Rosewood, the said portion having been added to the district of Stanley. By this process, it is believed we shall be justified in giving two members to the electorate of Stanley. The boundary, therefore, of Stanley, is, with this exception, unaltered; but it was thought that by including in it the country in the vicinity of Kholo, Brassall, Fernie Lawn, and Wivenhoe, which extends up to the head of the Brisbane River, the electorate would be entitled to representation by two members. The electorate of Fassifern, as I have remarked, is very little altered. Coming to the electorate of Drayton and Toowoomba, considerable additions have been made to it. We found that Toowoomba itself contained a population qualifying it to return more than one member, but not sufficient for two. We therefore thought it wiser to adopt the old electorate with some additions, and we have included in it, the country lying to the south of Toowoomba, and between Toowoomba and the Main Range, a rather populous corner, including the Middle Ridge. The electorate of Drayton and Toowoomba will now therefore be a compact square block, bounded on the south and east by the Main Range, and including a portion of the suburbs near the racecourse, which has hitherto been in the electorate of Aubigny. The electorate of Aubigny, which at present includes the country along the Main Range, both north and south of Toowoomba, has been divided, and the bulk of the electorate lies to the north of Toowoomba, including, however, Gowrie, Westbrook, and Eton Vale. The population of this electorate rises somewhat above the average for one member. Proceeding southward, we have thrown all the rest of the Darling Downs, including the whole of the confluents of the Condamine, from Cecil Plains to the head of that river, into one rather large electorate, to be represented by two members. This, of course, does not include the town of Warwick and some of its suburbs, about five miles up and down the river. In this way we believe we have provided sufficiently for the representation of the Darling Downs district. The electorate of Carnarvon includes the country in the neighbourhood of Stantlorpe, and the

watersheds of the McIntyre and Dumaresq Rivers on the Queensland border, the population of which justifies it in returning one member. I should also mention, in connection with the electorate of Aubigny, that a considerable portion of the Dalby electorate, under the present distribution, goes right up to Gowrie and within a few miles of Toowoomba. This being a very inconvenient distribution, we have included the whole of the settlements along the railway to the Gowrie Scrub in the electorate of Aubigny. To the west of this comes the electorate of Dalby, which, with the exception just mentioned, remains pretty much as at present, excepting that it includes both sides of the lower portion of the Jondaryan Creek, the former boundary being to the west and north of that creek. Going further west, we come to what we term the district of the Condamine, to be represented by two members. This includes what is now known as the Northern Downs, the district of the Balonne, and a portion of what formerly belonged to Carnarvon. This is a very large territory, chiefly squatting, with probably its centre in the rising township of St. George. Goondiwindi and Condamine are also included in this electorate. We leave the electorates of Maranoa and Warrego as they are. Proceeding northward, the boundaries of the electorate of Maryborough have been somewhat extended, so as to include the suburb of Dundathu and the district of Tinana Creek. To this electorate we propose to give two members. The electorate of Gympie is considerably reduced in size, the population of the town proper being sufficient to return a single member. The whole of Wide Bay is thus thrown into one single electorate to return two members. The northern boundary of that electorate is the Elliott River, not far from Bundaberg, and it extends to the ranges separating Wide Bay from the districts of Stanley and Moreton. Probably it might have been desirable to divide this district, but on full consideration, we preferred making it into a large district returning two members. The electorate of Mulgrave includes Bundaberg and Mount Perry, with the Elliott River as its southern boundary, and Port Curtis district as its northern, there being a slight alteration in its southern boundary. In the Burnett, we found it necessary to include the district of Taroom, the population of Burnett not being sufficient to carry one member, and we thought it especially desirable on the ground that the financial districts of the colony justified such a course of procedure; for if Taroom was to be attached to any electorate, it was certainly preferable that it should be attached to one of the electorates of the southern rather than of the northern districts. Previously it formed part of the district of Leichhardt; but from

the point of view I have already referred to, it was deemed desirable to connect it with Burnett. Going further north, the boundaries of the electorate of Rockhampton have been altered considerably. It includes the suburban portions of the town and the Athelstane Range on the south, and to the north the watershed of what is known as the Frenchman's Creek. It does not include the watershed of Lakes Creek. This electorate, we propose, should return two members. Then we come to the electorate of Blackall, which, like that of Bandanba, was somewhat circuitously bounded. It has now been made into a fairly compact district. Its northern boundary, we propose, should be the watershed between Marlborough and Broadsound. We propose to include in it a portion of country which has, I know not how, got into the electorate of Port Curtis, but which certainly ought not to belong to it. By this process we have reduced the population of Port Curtis somewhat below the average, but it was thought desirable to do this rather than include in it a population which could not possibly be represented by a member whose centre of action was at Gladstone. Leichhardt, again, is lessened by Taroom being taken away from it; but we propose to extend the electorate of Leichhardt by including in it the heads of the Belyando to the westward and northward of Clermont, and now included in that electorate. The population barely justifies the allocating to it of two members, but it is an important district, and now that the railway is extending into it, it is believed the step will be justified, if not now, yet in a very short time. To this extent the district of Leichhardt diminishes the very large district of Mitchell, to which we propose to give one member. The district of Normanby is less than the old district, a portion of the south being taken away from it; but a portion is added to it on the Peak Downs by which Theresa Creek is made the western boundary. Mackay, extending from Cape Palmerston to Repulse Bay, is entirely a coast district, and includes the town of Mackay, Bloomsbury, and St. Helens, which form a district large and populous enough to justify the return of one member. The Bowen electorate includes the watershed of the Bowen River, following up the Burdekin to Mount McConnell, and including the watershed of the Cape River. Further north is the electorate of Townsville, which is also a coast district. It extends from the mouth of the Burdekin on the south to Cape Grafton on the north, with the dividing range as its western boundary. It includes Townsville, Cardwell, and the settlements along the coast as far north as Cape Grafton. The electorate of Kennedy includes Ravenswood, Dalrymple, and Charters Towers up to Glen Dhu, the population of which, as

shown by recent returns, warrants its representation by two members. The district of Burke remains as at present, as also does that of Cook. The latter electorate includes Cairns, Thornborough, Port Douglas, Cooktown, and the whole of the Palmer, and we propose that it should be represented by two members. Such is a brief description of the leading features of the electorates, 40 in number, and returning in all 55 members. I need no apology, I think, for naming this number as required to represent the population of Queensland, for I am, to some extent, justified in doing so by the fact that when the honourable member for Port Curtis introduced a Bill in 1870 under which he proposed that the representation should consist of fifty-four members under the system of single electorates, he then remarked that the members might be in excess of present requirements, but that in a few years they would not be one too many to give expression to the opinions of the people of this country. I am satisfied, therefore, that we have done nothing more than the circumstances of the case justified in fixing this number, as one not in excess of the real requirements of the country. Let me now say a few words on that portion of the Bill which refers to the self-adjustment system. It is undoubtedly experimental, and has hitherto been viewed in that light, although when it has come to the point, honourable members have generally shrunk from putting it to the test of practice. I do not think we should hesitate to adopt it, but I am very anxious to hear some discussion on the subject. When last discussed, the chief difficulty was that having single electorates it was impossible to give effect to the self-adjustment system except by a subdivision of electorates; and I find that at that time it was proposed by Mr. Lilley, the member for Fortitude Valley, that the Governor, even without the advice of his Ministers, should be entrusted with power to subdivide districts and make new ones where it was shown to him that the population justified such an act. But I doubt whether any representative assembly would consent to part with its privileges in this respect. However, that objection cannot be said to apply to this system, because under the clauses we propose in this Bill, it will be found that, when the circumstances justify additional representation—that is, when the proper officers under the authority of this Bill have ascertained that there is an increased population in any one district to justify granting additional representation—machinery is provided for doing so. It is not necessary to create a new electorate, for, after the process here described has been put into action the result would be that the district entitled to additional representation would have an additional mem-

ber, whether it brought up the number to two, three, or four. I think we may very fairly consider this matter; but I would just point out that if it is to be put into execution it will in the first instance apply, and no doubt justly apply, to the capital. I do not object to it myself. The clauses have been drafted with a desire to give practical effect to those principles about which so much has been said in this House in times past, and have been contended for, not only by honourable members on this side, but also by honourable members sitting on that side of the House. But if the principle is to be adopted which we have laid down, it would be very hard, good as these boundaries may be, to say that they could not be altered; for it is hardly possible that the boundaries of any electoral district would by the Legislature of the country be indefinitely perpetuated on a self-adjusting principle. I rather think that Parliament would like to come in and say, "This is not adapted to the circumstances of the case," and that it would claim to have it altered. I merely point out these matters, as some of the practical difficulties that will have to be dealt with when the Bill comes to be discussed. Our desire is to secure the proper representation of the people, and not any triumph for men who may be in power at the present time, or may come into power in the future; but simply to get an expression of public opinion, and secure the best representation, so far as that may be possible, of the people of this colony. If that can be best done by this Bill, the Government will be satisfied; and while they will be ready to accept the suggestions of honourable members opposite, they desire it to be understood, that it has been introduced after careful consideration and a thorough analysis of the figures by the Registrar-General. The note attached by the Registrar-General indicates that there are difficulties connected with a complete analysis of those figures, consequent on changes subsequent to the time of taking any census. Two years have lapsed since the last census was taken, and considerable changes have taken place in the population of various districts; and, indeed, if we only go back a few months, we find that at that time Cairns was quite a populous town; but it has since completely changed. The Palmer, too, was a populous place a few years ago; but now Thornborough is more so than Palmer. It is therefore difficult to quote any figures with absolute certainty as to their correctness. I have now given a brief, but I hope sufficient, explanation of the general principles of the Bill. I hope it will be amply discussed by the House, and that it may be convenient to fix an early date for its discussion. On that ground, I do not purpose to raise a discussion upon

it now; but in order to allow honourable members to examine the maps, and details of the Bill in a way they probably could not do to-night, I shall simply content myself by moving the resolution standing in my name.

Mr. THOMPSON asked what description of map was provided to illustrate the Bill?

The PREMIER: There are two maps.

Mr. McILLWRAITH said it would be very satisfactory to have all the information that might be available upon this point.

The PREMIER replied that the maps which had been prepared consisted of duplicates, first of the old electorates and then of the new electorates, in different colours. Then there were maps showing, in duplicate also, only the new electorates; and then there were a series of maps showing on a larger scale the details of the other maps. There were altogether a series of nine maps, and everything was at the present moment ready for the information of honourable members in the Ministers' room. If there was any additional information required by a particular member relative to his district, the Government would be only too glad to make it their business to provide that information.

Question—That leave be granted to bring in the Bill—put and carried, and the Bill, being read a first time, was ordered to be printed, the second reading to stand an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. Griffith) in moving—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, to consider the following resolutions:—

1. That it is desirable that annual competitive examinations should be held in subjects to be prescribed by the Governor in Council, such examinations to be open to all scholars who have attended any grammar school, established under the Grammar School Acts of 1860, for a period of not less than two years, and who shall have been in actual attendance at any such school within twelve months before the date of the examination.

2. That exhibitions, tenable for three years and of the annual value of £100, should be granted to the scholars, not exceeding three in number, who shall attain the highest places at such examination, and shall be of sufficient merit.

3. That the amount of any such exhibition should be payable upon the condition that the holder thereof proceed to some university approved by the Secretary for Public Instruction, and during such time only as such holder shall remain in attendance upon lectures in such university as a matriculated student.

4. That an Address be presented to the Governor praying that His Excellency will be pleased to cause to be placed upon the Estimates for 1878-9 a sufficient sum to give effect to the foregoing resolutions;—

said: In moving the resolutions of which I have given notice, I do not propose to

address the House at any great length on the question of education. I believe that this House, and the people of this colony, have long since made up their minds that they intend to undertake the education of the people as a duty of the State, and that the only questions which remain open are as to the most efficient mode of doing so. In 1875, a Commission appointed by Government to report on the subject made a report, which was considered by this House, and it will be remembered that after that report a Bill was introduced which proposed to create a Department of Public Instruction, and to bring the grammar schools under the control of that department. It was proposed also that the grammar school scholars might, by exhibitions, have thrown open to them the advantages of a university. The report also recommended that there should be a university established in this colony at once. That part of the report was not, however, followed in the Bill. The provisions of the Bill relating to State schools and primary education were passed and became law; and the fourth part of it, relative to secondary education, passed this House without amendment except the addition of a new clause. No difference of opinion was expressed in this House on that part of the Bill, except by one or two honourable members, who did not consider it went far enough, as in their opinion the Bill should have made provision for the establishment of a university. The Legislative Council, however, refused to amend the law relating to secondary education in any way, and we had to submit to have this part of the Bill eliminated—a result which I have ever since regretted, and regret more every time that the matter comes under my notice; because I am satisfied from my experience of State schools and grammar schools, that until the two systems are brought into closer connection with one another, neither of them will do the work which I believe it is capable of. And here I may be permitted to say that the higher class scholars in our State schools are at the present moment doing better work than the lower classes in our grammar schools. The Government endeavoured last year to deal with the question of secondary education. A scheme was introduced in which it was proposed to make provision for the ultimate establishment of a university, but we were prevented from proceeding with it, and I do not think that there is any chance of having the attention of the House during the present session directed to the question of secondary education as a subject for distinct legislation. At the same time, I cannot but remark that the experience of the past two or three years has satisfied me that there are several students, who are in every way fitted for a university life—natives of

the colony here who have been brought up amongst us, have learnt their alphabet in our own schools, and are fitted to take a good place in any university, but who are not able to go there on account of the great expense. This I consider to be a great loss to the community—that these scholars should be debarred, in consequence of the distance they are from any university, of the advantages which such an establishment might confer upon them. The losers, however, will be the people of the colony even more than the individual scholars themselves. I have no sympathy with those who deride the advantages of a university education; and by university education I do not mean the mere acquiring of a knowledge of certain ancient languages. The true object of every education should be to enable the individual to put his faculties to the best use, and make him a good and valuable citizen. While, however, I fully value a university education, I am of opinion that it is yet too early to establish a university in this colony, though, at the same time, it would not be immature even now to lay down the basis of a scheme such as was proposed last year. The system of scholarships from State schools to grammar schools was dealt with in the Bill of 1875, and was, in a modified form, practised by the Board of Education under the old system; and the opinion of this House was expressed so strongly in favour of the principle that the money had since been placed and always voted on the Estimates. I shall quote a few figures to show you what has been the result of that practice; and although I am not in a position to say what would be the result of granting to our scholars further facilities to complete their education, yet the experience of the one would be a pretty good test to go upon as to what might be the result of the other. Looking at the history of the grammar schools in their connection with the State schools, what do I find? I have in my hand a list showing the results of the examinations at the grammar school last year, and also of the examinations in connection with the Sydney University; and it will be found, on reference to the document, that all the higher classes in the grammar schools have been supplied, almost to a boy, by scholars holding scholarships from the State schools. In the sixth form, four out of the five first boys were scholars from the State schools; in the fifth form, thirteen out of the first fifteen were State school scholars, and one of the remaining two would have obtained a scholarship, but was disqualified by his age. In the fourth form there were eight; and in the third form, the first five boys were State scholars; and the same in the second form. As to the result of the examinations lately held in connection with the Sydney University, in the first class were two boys who were both holders of scholarships from

State schools; in the second class were two. Honours were gained in nine cases by State school boys, and in only four who were not scholars from the State schools. And when we come to the junior scholarships, we find that the first six, and one other out of ten, were gained by scholars holding scholarships from the State schools. There was no doubt that the offering of these scholarships had the effect of keeping industrious boys from going out into the world, and longer at their studies than otherwise they would be; and it also showed, that having received good instruction in the State schools, and been encouraged to pursue their education further, they were the best students. Of those who last year passed the Sydney University examinations, several had high honours; and, as one of the examiners, I have no hesitation in saying that a large number of the boys would have passed well the matriculation examinations at any university; and it is a great misfortune that they should be debarred by the circumstances of the colony, and not any fault of their own, from reaping the advantages of university education. How was this to be remedied? One remedy was to establish a university in the colony, but the limited numbers that might go up for examination—perhaps three, or four, or five—might not be a justification for our establishing such an institution at present, while it might be sufficient justification for our assisting them to get the advantages of a university education elsewhere. Since 1861, the small colony of Tasmania has offered these scholarships annually, and in other parts of the world they had done the same. In the American States they afford the same facilities, although I am free to admit that some of the institutions there would be more properly called normal schools than universities. The question for us is, whether it is worth our while to encourage some such system of higher education by a moderate cost, not exceeding £900 a-year, which would be a very small cost indeed compared with that of establishing and maintaining a university in the colony. I do not here consider the question whether higher education is desirable. Some think it is not, and that it is not the business of the State to provide education at all. But if it is desirable, the question is, whether we can afford the small assistance I have just mentioned for that purpose. I have now, I think, given the reasons why some such scheme should be adopted. The proposition is taken almost *verbatim* from the Bill of 1875, and there cannot, I think, be any better basis on which to grant the exhibitions. It may be unusual for the Government to move for an Address to His Excellency to place a sum upon the Esti-

mates for this purpose; they might place it upon the Estimates without such a resolution, but then there would be nothing to show the basis on which the exhibitions were granted. The Government desire an expression of opinion from the House that these exhibitions should be granted, and the Estimates will then contain a reference to the resolution, and the opinion of the House will be carried into effect.

Mr. McILWRAITH said that a resolution of this character was generally discussed in committee; but as the Attorney-General had invited discussion, they might as well initiate it now. The Attorney-General, with the exception of one argument at the end of his speech which looked rather strong, assumed that the whole question had been proved, when he said that it had been agreed over and over again, that it was the duty of the State to undertake the education of the people. Now, his experience went to show that it had been only agreed that the primary education of the people should be undertaken by the State, and that cold water has been thrown upon any scheme to charge the State with their higher education. The general opinion had been that those who wanted higher education should pay for it themselves. He had another objection to offer to the resolution. If these bursaries were to be provided at the expense of the Government, they should be open to the whole colony, and not confined to grammar schools, and when the resolutions came to be considered in committee, he should be prepared to move an amendment that all the words after "scholars" should be omitted. As regarded the success won by the State scholars at the Sydney examination and in the Brisbane grammar school, he considered that it did not warrant the deduction drawn by the Attorney-General. He believed that scholarship boys formed a large proportion of the scholars of the school, and, therefore, they ought to form a large proportion of the prize-takers; they had, in fact, selected, picked boys from particular schools competing with ordinary scholars, and they ought, consequently, to come out the largest prize-winners. The Attorney-General also assumed that if these exhibitions were granted, poor people would be able to take advantage of them to give their sons a university education. He had not seen that such was the case in other parts of the world, and he did not believe that it would be so here. The men who were quite able from their own means to give their sons a higher education would be the only ones who could take advantage of it. The only sound idea at the bottom of the scheme was, that the Attorney-General wished to give some of the more clever youngsters of the colony a university education. He

agreed that it was wise to encourage men to give their children the highest kind of education, and he would do all he could to further that end; but not with the State's money. His main objection to the resolution was, that it was not the duty of the state to provide higher education, but that it should be paid by the parties themselves; and his next objection was, that if the State should provide these exhibitions, they should be open to the whole colony.

Mr. GRIMES wished to make a few remarks, as he should not like it to be inferred that he intended to vote for the resolution as it stood. He agreed to a great extent with the remarks of the honourable leader of the Opposition, that if they were to go in for higher education, the proper source for the necessary funds was either private endowments from gentlemen who had made money in the colony, or that persons who desired a university education should pay for it themselves, or get their friends to do so. The colony ought not to be burdened with the cost of providing such education. There were, perhaps, more men in this colony who had taken degrees, but who had yet been failures, than there were of any other class. He believed that the State alone could undertake the education of the people, and he had nothing to say against the National system of this colony, but they might look a little at the result being produced by the grammar school scholarships. If they did, they might perhaps find that the direction in which the system was tending was not altogether what they should desire. Instead of making the youth of the colony desirous of excelling in the various branches of commerce, industry, and enterprise, it seemed to make them hangers-on for Government situations or other nice offices, or that it merely educated them for what were called the higher and more respectable professions. Unless large numbers of the rising generation were trained to do the work required to be done in a young colony like this, they would be making a mistake in providing such education. It was not her universities which had brought Great Britain to the front, but the pluck and enterprise of her people. He had also to urge that there was not a sufficiently Queensland character about the resolution. The exhibitions were to be confined to the boys attending grammar schools, but there was no provision that the winners should be natives. If they were to have these exhibitions, they should have some security that those who derived benefit from them should have an interest in the colony, and that the colony was expending money from which it would reap a benefit in the future. The exhibitions should be open only to boys who had been residents in Queensland for seven

years, or were natives of it. It might also be fairly considered whether three exhibitions, which were one per cent. of the number of boys attending the grammar schools, was not in excess of what was actually required. They had only three hundred grammar school boys, and he believed that one exhibition annually would be quite sufficient.

Mr. MACROSSAN thought it was incumbent upon the Attorney-General to prove that the State was in duty bound to give higher education to the pupils in the grammar schools, and that it would derive good from doing so; but these two things he had entirely assumed. He had certainly quoted the example of Tasmania having adopted a similar course since 1861 to the one he proposed, but it was his duty to have demonstrated that Tasmania had profited by the step. He simply, however, quoted the fact without showing the result. He had made use of a very true expression when he said that he had no sympathy with those who derided university education. He (Mr. Macrossan) did not think there was a single man inside the House, or a single man of education outside of it, who would attempt to deride such education, but at the same time it had been proved that a university education did not always have the result intended. In his experience he had found that some of the most helpless men and most incompetent colonists were university-educated men. The Attorney-General should have shown that, by providing these exhibitions, the State would derive, not only some general, but also some special benefit. He should have quite understood him if he had brought forward a motion for a sum of money for the establishment of agricultural or mining colleges, or something which would advance the material interests of the colony; or if he had attempted to show in any way that by giving the grammar school boys a higher education, they would make better citizens than they would otherwise; but he had entirely failed to do so. There could be no question in the minds of honourable members that the chief and only result which would be derived from giving this higher education would be that the winners of the exhibitions would become barristers and doctors. Honourable members were not justified in spending the people's money for such a purpose. They were no more justified in assisting in the education as a barrister or doctor of any man's son, especially the son of a rich man, for the wealthy would be, he believed, the class most likely to take advantage of the resolution—than they were in educating boys to become blacksmiths and carpenters, although he thought blacksmiths and carpenters to be more useful for the colony. They had quite enough barristers in the colony, and even if they had not there were

more than enough in Great Britain, and they would speedily come here whenever there was an opening; the supply would be always equal to the demand. He repeated that he looked upon the resolution simply as a means to educate some of the youth of the colony as barristers and doctors. When the Attorney-General did make up his mind to provide university exhibitions, he should at least have enlarged the scheme to a greater extent than he had. He had narrowed it to the smallest basis possible, confining it, as had been pointed out by the member for Bulimba, to 300 boys. If they were going to give a university education to their boys, why confine the privilege to boys in State schools? Why debar the sons of men who went to the expense of providing private education from entering the lists? Even if the Attorney-General should carry the resolutions as they stood, he was satisfied that the good sense of the House would prevent them being narrowed to the limit that they were. They were continually hearing complaints made against the people that they were demanding everything from the Government. They had been told by the Minister for Works that if only a nail, hammer, or screw were required to be fixed in a public building, or a building that was scarcely public, application was made to the House. Yet here they had the resolutions placed before them, which helped to create in the minds of the people the feeling that Government would do everything for them. Having placed the means at their disposal of receiving a first-class primary education, the House was now being asked to go to the length of saying that men who wished to educate their sons as barristers and doctors should not be at the expense of doing so. If the Attorney-General should have the good fortune to carry the resolution that night, he (Mr. Macrossan) was sure that it would be considerably altered on a future occasion. He felt quite certain that the good sense, fairness, and honesty of the House would not allow a measure to be passed which would apply only to boys belonging to the State schools, but would require that the advantages should be extended to all boys within the colony of Queensland.

Mr. MOREHEAD did not intend to take up the time of the House, seeing that the arguments which had been used by his side had pretty well exhausted the subject. As a representative of an outside district—and he thought many other honourable members would agree with him—he would enter his protest against the additional expense which his constituents would be called upon to pay. It appeared to be the intention to saddle the country with a university. He quite agreed with what had fallen from the honourable the Attorney-General, that a university was a very good

thing, but he did not think the colony was in a position to afford the expense. He thought the Attorney-General had a craze on the subject of education, and though it might be a craze in the right direction, he thought a stop might have been made at the point arrived at when the Education Act was passed. That measure was now upon its trial, and he thought a fair trial should be given to it; but the House should not be called upon now to expend more money in order to provide a still higher class of education, which should be open to every child in the colony. If they referred to the sister colonies they would find that State-aid had been given to universities, and he was perfectly aware of the system prevailing in Tasmania. If the Attorney-General had stated that his object was to found a university, the matter would be met upon its merits, but the project should not have been introduced by a side-wind. He believed the majority in the House and in the colony were not yet prepared to consider such a question. He agreed with every word that had fallen from the honourable member for Kennedy, and thought that if the Attorney-General passed the resolution as it now stood, he would have to widen the basis of its second clause, because, even by his own showing, the boys of the primary schools were only the majority of the prize-takers in the examinations. The Attorney-General had stated that other boys had come well up in the examination, and, therefore, he (Mr. Morehead) would ask why should they be passed over, and the scholarships limited to the grammar school boys? He objected to the proposition *in toto*, and was of opinion that under any circumstances it would have to submit to amendment.

The PREMIER: I think that the House was hardly prepared for this discussion to-night, and that many honourable members have been taken unawares. I am not inclined to treat this question, or any question relating to education, lightly or hurriedly. For myself, I feel quite sure that the principle embodied in this resolution—that of supplementing our present system by an attempt to meet the requirements for higher education—is recognized by the people of this country. I am quite sure that their self-denying efforts to give the most complete effect to the education system will not allow the subject to rest where it is. There are, no doubt, some defects in our present system, but I do not think that the people have retrograded, at any rate, in that respect; and I believe their object is to advance and to perfect what is, at present, I affirm, an imperfect system. As we have laid the foundation of our system of education, we must add to it whatever is material to make it the perfect system which we hope we may arrive at. I think the Attorney-General was exceed-

ingly modest in making this demand upon the House. I myself am most anxious in this matter and should have been inclined to support a higher demand than that made here. Our system is utterly incomplete without a university. This motion is merely a road to a university and a make-shift for the time being. We see that the neighbouring colonies are making earnest efforts to complete their systems and to finish them by the foundation of universities. Even such towns as Otago and Christchurch—communities not more numerous or wealthy than ours—have succeeded in establishing universities and procuring learned professors who are competent to give a complete education to the rising young men in those cities. We must not remain in the back ground or allow ourselves to fall into the rear. The present is a step in the right direction, if it is not all that might be required. I really treat this question almost apart from the Government point of view. It is a matter in which (though especially devolving upon the Attorney-General) we may all take an independent share. Such is my interest in the question, that I feel I am entitled to speak as a member of the House, and I hope we shall not allow the question to pass by without some earnest discussion upon it, for it is one which deserves to be seriously considered. I know at the present time that there are ample reserves of land suitable for such a purpose as founding a university, and that grants, if made, would in no way retard the settlement of the country. I do not think that the reservation of such lands would subtract in any way from the purposes of settlement to which they may be devoted, if they were set apart as permanent endowments for higher education. I could point to thousands of acres of great permanent value which I should desire to see dedicated to so good and high a purpose. I can hardly believe that the honourable member for Kennedy can wish us to believe that we should only contribute to the material prosperity of this country. He told us that if the money were asked for the purpose of establishing an agricultural college, it would receive his assistance. This vote would be calculated to foster the intellectual development of the country. It would add indefinitely to the intellectual power of the community, give a higher standard and value to society, and enable us to have men living amongst us competent to discharge the duties of professors. At present, if men in the colony wish to educate their children in the best manner, they must send them away. I confess myself that this motion does not include all I desire. It is a mere adaptation to immediate circumstances, and is, perhaps, in itself, undesirable; but it is better than nothing, as we have not the means to provide a university. A university is

necessary, if men desire to educate their children in the way that is best, and at present to secure such an education they must send their sons to Sydney, Melbourne, or England, because there are no means of giving them here, the higher forms of education, such as would enable them to become practitioners in medicine or divinity, or in any of the higher forms of education. I say, by all means, let us try and make the best of the existing circumstances. I admit that this step is an insufficient one; but it will meet the immediate requirements of the case, and I hope it will be fairly considered and adopted. If honourable members have been taken unawares, the matter may be discussed on some future occasion. But do not let us come to a rash conclusion on the matter, but carefully consider the serious effects which it will have upon the future of the people of this colony.

Mr. THOMPSON said the Government had introduced a motion and deprecated discussion upon it. It appeared now that the Premier's idea was to establish a university by setting apart certain lands. That was the principle upon which our railways were to be made. If they were to approach the question in that spirit they might as well ask for a loan, as the railway system had come to that. He thought they had learned by this time that if they had not money to expend they had money's worth, and that setting land apart for such purposes was equivalent to taking so much money out of the general revenue. It was absurd to suppose that the people of this country were going to be trapped into providing a university on the supposition that they would be paying nothing out of their pockets. If land was not money's worth, it was no use devoting it to any object. There would be a better opportunity of discussing the resolution when it came before the committee. To introduce such a motion, and then for the Premier to snap the opportunity for suggesting such a remedy for all difficulties as he had done, seemed to him (Mr. Thompson) perfectly absurd. He would probably vote for the motion with some modification. There would be ample opportunity by-and-by to ask questions, and find out the probable operation of the motion. It would be necessary to find out whether the three scholarships were to go to three known men, or whether an opportunity would be given to every boy in the colony to compete. The motion looked fair on the face of it, especially if the elections were to be made by competitive examination. If everyone was to have a fair opportunity, the proposition was not an unfair one; but all those matters would have to be considered, and he (Mr. Thompson) reserved to himself the right of taking any course he might consider advisable on

the motion coming before the committee. It might be necessary to increase the number of scholarships, in order to give the matter a more universal application. In regard to what the honourable the Premier said about the necessity which existed for higher education, he (Mr. Thompson) thought everybody would agree; but as to his notion of our being any better, because of having a few men devoted to higher learning among us, he confessed himself unable to see the matter in that light. He thought that the honourable the Premier believed in the divine right of the people of this country, and that the colony could get along very well as it now was. His arguments on that point were very long, and displayed several weaknesses; but to follow the matter out it would be necessary to go into it more minutely than he (Mr. Thompson) was inclined to do at the present time. If they once passed the resolution they would admit that it was the duty of the State to carry the more deserving of the citizens to the highest point of education. Such a thing might be very desirable, but the House would be better able to give an opinion when the subject was before the committee, and they had all the information on the subject.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I assumed that the temper of the House was the same as it was in 1873, 1874, and 1875, when the question of education was discussed. Although one or two members then in the House almost denounced education as the business of the State, and showed a desire not to permit the State to have more to do with it than they could help, the general feeling was in its favour, and I hope that the same temper prevails now. I was surprised (except in the case of one or two honourable members who are consistent in having opposed every previous similar scheme) to perceive an apparently more widespread idea on the part of the House that the higher education is a thing in which the State had no concern. I assumed that the principle of higher education is a thing in which the State is concerned, and that the only question was, whether we can afford to adopt the principle. I consider that it is a great misfortune that young men cannot be prepared to become doctors in the colony. Men can, of course, bring their sons up in the colony, but it would be a great advantage if they could bring them up to every profession without being compelled to send them out of the colony. It is a great advantage that men who may eventually take their seats in the House should have an opportunity of visiting other parts of the world, and of learning things which cannot be learned in Queensland. I declined to discuss the subject on the general principle, because I believed, and still

believe, with the majority of honourable members, that the country will continue in the path on which it has entered, and will not allow education in the colony to be depressed while it is in the power of the State to assist it. We have been told that the other colonies do not do this. I will point to New South Wales (the inhabitants of which colony have the advantage of university education to a large extent), Victoria, South Australia, and New Zealand, which latter colony has universities in two places. The expenditure asked for is extremely moderate—almost trifling—as it cannot exceed £900 a-year, and that not for three years; and yet we are told that this is an extraordinary sum, and is a waste of money. I say that such a sum may be spent in many ways before a better is found. During the first year the scheme will be in operation it cannot exceed £300, and probably will not come to so much. If no greater waste of money than that takes place during the session, it will be marked with singular carefulness in the expenditure of money. I understood that an attempt would be made to defeat this motion; but as I now understand that there is to be no division, that the question will be further discussed in committee, it is unnecessary to take up any more of the time of the House.

Question put and passed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved—

That this House will, at its next sitting, resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the desirableness of introducing a Bill to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Municipal Institutions, and to provide more effectually for Local Government, as recommended by the Governor's Message, No. 1, of 25th April.

He added, that in committee, he proposed to fully explain the measure.

Question put and passed.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion of the PREMIER, a Bill to amend the Health Act of 1872 was introduced, read a first time, and the second reading was made an Order of the Day for the following day.

ADJOURNMENT.

The PREMIER, in moving the adjournment of the House, said he begged to inform honourable members that he proposed taking the second reading of the Health Bill to-morrow, as there was not much business on the paper. It was an important Bill, and he hoped it would be read a second time to-morrow.

The House adjourned at five minutes past six o'clock.